



# Guale News

FEBRUARY 1992

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## WELCOME TO 1992

### RAMBLE SCHEDULED SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS.

Meet at old Winn Dixie parking lot across from Methodist Church in Kingsland. Be there at 8:45 for briefing. Departure time 9:00 sharp.

"Grim, vital, defiant of time, this monument of Spain's hours of greatness seems still to be peering defensively out upon the Gulf Stream, seems still to be guarding the homegoing galleons from the corsair. To touch its gray outer walls, to wander among its rooms, to climb its ramp and to look out upon the blue waters of Matanzas Bay, is to wish to know the story of Spain in America; and here a part of it is beautifully told." [borrowed from the fort's brochure]

Program Chairman has timed the departure from Kingsland to reach the fort in time for a guided tour by park rangers. You will relive the days of the Spanish military guarding their southernmost continental outpost against French and English marauders moving in from the sea and down from Georgia.

St. Augustine's tie with Camden? Don't forget the Spanish priests who moved up from St. Augustine establishing missions to the Indians all along Georgia's coast, including Camden County.

After the visit to the fort, lunch is planned at Columbia Restaurant with Spanish food a speciality. (Other foods available.)

After lunch is an afternoon on your own. Lots to see and do from oldest house to oldest school, oldest cemetery, oldest chapel - and don't forget shopping in many, many shops!

See ya at 8:45, February 15. For more details, call Henry at 576-5421.

## PLANS FOR 1992

At the annual planning session on January 21, directors of Guale Historical Society pulled together some exciting plans. Here's hoping you will be joining the group for its "sit-down" programs with entertaining speakers and rambles to exotic spots. Sign on! The tentative schedule looks like this:

February - St. Augustine

March 10 - Speaker

April 11 - Rice Festival, Liberty County

May - Sapelo, Members Only

June/August - Vacation

September - Open

October - Regular meeting with election of officers

November - Open

December - Merry Christmas

## OFFICERS FOR 1992

President: John Christian

Vice-President: Henry Williams

Treasurer: Mildred Walko

Recording Secretary: Dot Holston

Corresponding Secretary: Eloise Bailey

Directors '92-'94: Dot Barker, Gwen Thomas, Marjorie Waters

## ORANGE HALL FLASH

Surprise visitors to Orange Hall come bearing gifts - let's review Orange Hall history a bit. James and Metta Becker were among the owners of this grand building, owning it from 1919 until 1925. Several sources reported that the Beckers refurbished the house, furnishing and decorating it "grandly."

The Beckers had no children and left St. Marys for Florida in the mid-20's selling the building and furniture. Recent visitor Richard Becker Fuller of Sandusky, Ohio, great nephew of Mr. Becker has now brought photographs showing Orange Hall in that period. These will be on display at Orange Hall soon.



— Picture Credit: Virginia F. Nelsonson

### Orange Hall Living Room in the 1920's.

Further information that Mr. Fuller has shared show Harmon V. Becker, father of James and Burton, Mr. Fuller's grandfather, owned a thriving bicycle factory - and moved from bicycle manufacturing into the building of automobiles and naphtha launches. In 1900, Harmon and his two sons offered the automobile Elmore for sale at \$500. This enterprise was sold to General Motors 1909.

Thank you Mr. Fuller for sharing your Becker information with us!

## FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

Coastal Georgia Historical Society: The display "Travels of William Bartram" featuring all 60 of his prints as well as interpretations of his and his father's scientific accomplishments will be shown at the museum until February 15. You might want to make a trip to St. Simons for this. A new exhibition "Cultural History of Brunswick" opens March 1.

If you would like to become a member of this organization, send your dues to Coastal Georgia Historical Society, P.O. Box 1136, St. Simons Island, GA 31522. Individual \$20. Family \$35. Membership entitles you to the quarterly newsletter, seminars, lectures, tours, free admission to the museum, and discounts on museum publications and gift items.

## FOR SALE

Have you bought any good rat traps lately? For the benefit of new members - historical rat traps are on sale at Bryan-Lang Historical Library in Woodbine. These traps were part of the WPA rodent eradication program back in the thirties, and stamped "Property of U.S. Biological Survey," a now defunct governmental body. Somehow they found their way to the courthouse attic and were rescued several years ago. Souvenir hunters snapped most of them up at that time, but a few are still on hand. A good buy at \$2.

## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Buddy Sullivan has now published a 40 page supplement to his history of McIntosh County *EARLY DAYS ON THE GEORGIA TIDEWATER*, which came out in 1991. The appendix may be ordered from the McIntosh County Board of Commissioners, Box 584, Darien 31305. Cost is \$4 plus \$1 mailing. *HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY GEORGIA* to 1918 has been published by the Original Montgomery County Historical Society, P.O. Box 105, Mount Vernon, GA 30445. Profits will go to the preservation of the Cooper-Conner House Museum. \$35 plus \$5 mailing.

AN ISLAND NAMED DAUFAUSKIE is another book of interest in this region. (Remember Pat Conroy's "The Water is

Wide") This newly published book may be ordered from The Reprint Company, P.O. Box 5401, Spartanburg, S.C. 29304. \$24.95 plus \$2.50 mailing.

## INTRODUCING

one of our new members and "old" Woodbine native Maybelle Gilfillen of Monte Vista, Colorado. Maybelle has not been around so much since she became a Westerner, but is still a strong supporter of various local projects. She is the daughter of the late Jim and Susan McCullough Bedell, giving her ties to many county residents. One of her grandfathers, J.K. Bedell was the founder of Woodbine. Welcome to Guale Historical Society!

## 1992 Members to Date (1/26)

**FAMILY:** William & Ann Stoddard; Phil & Virginia Jory, Atlanta; Frank & Opal Argenbright, Madison; W.C. & Teresa Kirby; Flem & Peggy Hall; Charles & Patricia Smith, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Herb Boyett (new); Richard & Marjorie Waters; Joe & Lois Chaney (new); Henry & Gladys Browning, Yulee (new).

**INDIVIDUALS:** Carol Anderson, Fernandina; Beryl Clark (new); Glenn Smith; Bill Joyner; Iris Norton; Alice Chauncey; Bill & Claudia Blankenship; Mildred Ray; Louise Bailey; George Brown, Atlanta; Virginia Rowland (Mattapoisett); Kay Johnson, Fernandina (new); Carlton Bunkley; Debra Vasquez; Matilda Bridges; Waldo Lang; Evelyn O'Barr, Jacksonville; R.G. Raymond, St. Simons; William Morris; Jim Hall, Asheville (new); Eugenia Price, St. Simons; Nancy Goshorn, St. Simons; P.B. and Annie Howell, Leesburg (new); Michael Wynne (new); Eloise Bailey; Dorsey Harris; Gert Kimberland; Pauline Bosserdet; Peggy Aranson (new).

If you have not renewed your membership dues: Send to Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret St., St. Marys, GA 31558. The Historical Society year runs January 1-December 31. Note the dues increase which became effective mid 1991. Student \$2. Individual \$8. Family \$15.